

Message Text

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ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 EPG-02
AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02
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P R 111250Z JUL 77
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9016
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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BRUSSELS FOR USEC

STR FOR ACTION

H PASS CODEL

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD MTN
SUBJECT: MTN-US/NORDIC BILATERAL

1. SUMMARY. THE U.S. HELD INTENSIVE BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS ON THE MTN WITH A NORDIC DELEGATION ON JULY 7-8 AT GRANINGE, NEAR STOCKHOLM. THE TALKS FOCUSED ON THE MAJOR ISSUES BLOCKING PROGRESS IN THE MTN AND SHOULD BE HELPFUL IN SECURING NORDIC COOPERATION ON A NUMBER OF KEY ISSUES, PARTICULARLY TARIFFS.

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2. THE NORDIC DELEGATION WAS CHAIRED BY BRATTSTROM, SWEDISH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COMMERCE, AND CONTAINED REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL FOUR NORDIC COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THEIR GENEVA DELEGATIONS. THE U.S. DELEGATION WAS LED BY DEPUTY STR AMB WOLFF. THE DISCUSSIONS WERE CORDIAL AND STIMULATING, AND SHOWED A MORE ACTIVE COMMITMENT TO A SUCCESSFUL MTN THAN WE HAD PREVIOUSLY OBSERVED

AMONG THE NORDICS.

3. CONCERNING MTN TIMETABLE, THE NORDICS WERE IN SYMPATHY WITH THE U.S. DESIRE TO MOVE THE NEGOTIATIONS TO THE STAGE OF OFFERS ON THE TABLE IN ALL AREAS BY EARLY JANUARY 1978, BUT CAUTIONED THAT THE DATE APPEARED OVERLY OPTIMISTIC. THE NORDICS AGREED THAT THE NEXT SIX MONTHS WOULD BE CRUCIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

4. ON TARIFFS, THE NORDICS WANT TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN ACHIEVING A COMPROMISE BETWEEN THE U.S. DESIRE FOR SUBSTANTIAL CUTS AND THE EC FOCUS ON HARMONIZATION. THEY WELCOMED U.S. INDICATION OF FLEXIBILITY IN THE SEARCH FOR A FORMULA, AND AGREED THAT SMALL MEETINGS OF THE INTERESTED PARTIES, BOTH BILATERAL AND PLURILATERAL, WERE THE ONLY MEANS OF ACHIEVING PROGRESS.

5. ON AGRICULTURE THE NORDICS WELCOMED THE MORE PRAGMATIC U.S. APPROACH, AND UNDERSTOOD THE IMPORTANCE THE U.S. PLACES ON PARALLEL PROGRESS IN THE AGRICULTURAL NEGOTIATIONS. WHILE CAUTIONING THAT THEY PROBABLY COULD BE LESS HELPFUL IN MOVING AGRICULTURE ALONG, THE NORDICS WERE REASONABLY SYMPATHETIC TO THE NEW U.S. APPROACH. ON SOME INDIVIDUAL ISSUES, THE NORDICS WERE WARY ABOUT THE SPECIFICS CITING THE NEED FOR MORE INTER-NORDIC COORDINATION ON MTN AGRICULTURAL ISSUES WHICH HAD BEEN DORMANT FOR SO LONG.
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6. SAFEGUARDS DISCUSSION CENTERED ON THE ISSUE OF SELECTIVITY WITH THE NORDICS EXPLAINING THE RATIONALE FOR THEIR POSITION, AND SEEKING CLARIFICATION OF U.S. INTENTIONS ON INDIVIDUAL POINTS.

7. SUBSIDY/COUNTERVAIL PRODUCED A SHARP EXCHANGE WITH THE NORDICS DEMONSTRATING A HIGHLY NEGATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE WHOLE SUBSIDY QUESTION. IN LATER PRIVATE DISCUSSION THE NORDICS INDICATED A GREATER WILLINGNESS TO STUDY THE ISSUE FURTHER TO SEE WHETHER THE CURRENT LARGE GAP BETWEEN U.S. AND NORDIC POSITIONS CAN BE NARROWED. THE DISCUSSIONS WERE USEFUL IN CONVEYING TO THE NORDICS THE URGENCY AND HIGH PRIORITY WHICH WE ASSIGN TO THIS SUBJECT.

8. FRAMEWORK. DISCUSSION CONFIRMED THERE ARE NO MAJOR US-NORDIC PROBLEMS IN FRAMEWORK GROUP. WE COMMENDED NORDICS FOR THEIR COMPREHENSIVE STATEMENT AT JUNE 30 SESSION OF THE GROUP. NORDICS NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH EC CONCEPT OF ADDING SOME KIND OF AN "ENABLING CLAUSE" TO THE GATT HAD BEEN PUT FORWARD IN GUARDED MANNER (AND THUS PERHAPS NOT TOO DAMAGING) NORDICS HAD POLITICAL DIFFICULTY IN APPEARING

TO BE LESS FORTHCOMING THAN EC IN TRYING TO ACCOMMODATE
LDC ASPIRATIONS.

9. COMMENT. WE WERE ENCOURAGED BY THE EVIDENT DESIRE OF
THE NORDICS TO ACHIEVE A SUCCESSFUL MTN, AND THEIR WILLING-
NESS TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN SITUATIONS WHERE THEIR
BRIDGE-BUILDING TALENTS COULD BE USEFUL. WE BELIEVE
THE NORDICS ARE NOW CONVINCED THAT THE U.S. MEANS BUSINESS
IN THE MTN AND IS READY TO MOVE ENERGETICALLY TO GET THE
NEGOTIATIONS IN HIGH GEAR.

10. A MORE DETAILED MEMCON OF THE BILATERAL TALKS WILL
BE PROVIDED LATER.CULBERT

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